

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated September 27, 2007. Claims 1 to 4, 6 to 10, 16 and 20 to 23 are in the application, with Claims 5, 11 to 15 and 17 to 19 having been cancelled, and Claims 20 to 23 having been newly added herein. Claims 1, 16, and 20 to 23 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that Claims 4, 5 and 10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In keeping with this indication of allowable subject matter, Applicants have amended each of independent Claims 1 and 16 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claim 5, added new Claims 20 and 22 based on the allowable subject matter of Claim 4, and added new Claims 21 and 23 based on the allowable subject matter of Claim 10, and consequently these claims are seen to be in condition for allowance.

The Office Action entered rejections of Claims 1, 2, 6, 11 to 13 and 16 to 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,241,659 (Parulski), Claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Parulski, and Claims 7 to 9, 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Parulski in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,885,408 (Hirano). Claims 5, 11 to 15 and 17 to 19 have been cancelled. The remaining claims are dependent on the independent claims discussed above, and are seen to be in condition for allowance for the reasons noted above. The foregoing actions have been taken without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and without conceding correctness of the rejections, but rather strictly to obtain an earlier allowance and to expedite issuance.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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